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4172-120

- **Species A** directed to forming the fiber by removing the solid core fiber from the solidified polymeric membranes; and
- **Species B** directed to forming the fiber by swelling the solidified polymeric membrane to effect disengagement from the solid core fiber.

In response, applicants elect **Species A**. Such election is **with traverse**.

The traversal is based on the fact that Species B identified by the Examiner is encompassed within the claims directed to Species A, since the method of swelling the solidified polymeric membrane to effect disengagement from the solid core fiber requires that the polymeric membrane be solidified in the first instance, and the solid core fiber thereafter is removed from it, albeit with swelling of such polymeric membrane (subsequent to solidification thereof).

Accordingly, the claims readable on Species A claims include all claims 1-68, 71 and 76-87 pending in the application.

Concerning the swelling of the polymeric membrane to effect disengagement of the solid core fiber, the claims related to such specific methodology are claims 44-55 and 83.

The claims that do not require such swelling of the membrane prior to the removal of the solid core fiber are claims 1-43, 56-68, 71, 76-82 and 84-87.

Consistent with the foregoing, it is requested that all claims 1-68, 71 and 76-87 be examined, and further, that such claims be allowed, in view of the August 1, 2006 Amendment in the application, showing the patentable distinction of such claims over the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,



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Authorization is hereby given for charging of any fee or amount properly payable  
in connection with the filing of this Amendment, to Deposit Account No. 08-3284.